

SMART CONTRACT AUDIT REPORT

for

Carbon Protocol

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1 Introduction

Given the opportunity to review the design document and related smart contract source code of the Carbon protocol, we outline in the report our systematic approach to evaluate potential security issues in the smart contract implementation, expose possible semantic inconsistencies between smart contract code and design document, and provide additional suggestions or recommendations for improvement. Our results show that the given version of smart contracts can be further improved due to the presence of several issues related to either security or performance. This document outlines our audit results.

1.1 About Carbon

The Carbon protocol is a next-generation AMM which introduces the key new feature of asymmetric liquidity, wherein any given bonding curve only trades in a single direction, effectively being an out-of-the-money limit order. Carbon offers unique trading abilities which enable adjustable trading strategies with custom ranges, linked orders, and continuous one-directional liquidity. The basic information of the audited protocol is as follows:

Item	Description
Issuer	Bancor
Website	https://www.carbondefi.xyz/
Туре	EVM Smart Contract
Platform	Solidity
Audit Method	Whitebox
Latest Audit Report	May 29, 2024

Table 1.1: Basic Information of Carbon Protocol

In the following, we show the Git repository of reviewed files and the commit hash value used in this audit.

• https://github.com/bancorprotocol/carbon-contracts.git (d06152e)

And this is the commit ID after all fixes for the issues found in the audit have been checked in:

• https://github.com/bancorprotocol/carbon-contracts.git (64d6dfc)

1.2 About PeckShield

PeckShield Inc. [11] is a leading blockchain security company with the goal of elevating the security, privacy, and usability of current blockchain ecosystems by offering top-notch, industry-leading services and products (including the service of smart contract auditing). We are reachable at Telegram (https://t.me/peckshield), Twitter (http://twitter.com/peckshield), or Email (contact@peckshield.com).

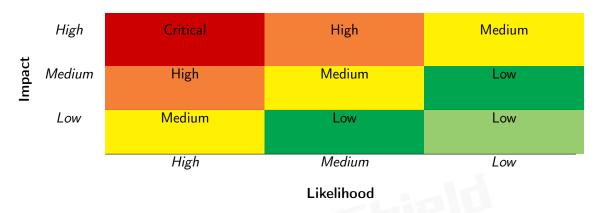


Table 1.2: Vulnerability Severity Classification

1.3 Methodology

To standardize the evaluation, we define the following terminology based on OWASP Risk Rating Methodology [10]:

- <u>Likelihood</u> represents how likely a particular vulnerability is to be uncovered and exploited in the wild;
- Impact measures the technical loss and business damage of a successful attack;
- Severity demonstrates the overall criticality of the risk.

Likelihood and impact are categorized into three ratings: *H*, *M* and *L*, i.e., *high*, *medium* and *low* respectively. Severity is determined by likelihood and impact, and can be accordingly classified into four categories, i.e., *Critical*, *High*, *Medium*, *Low* shown in Table 1.2.

To evaluate the risk, we go through a list of check items and each would be labeled with a severity category. For one check item, if our tool or analysis does not identify any issue, the

Table 1.3: The Full List of Check Items

Category	Check Item		
	Constructor Mismatch		
	Ownership Takeover		
	Redundant Fallback Function		
	Overflows & Underflows		
	Reentrancy		
	Money-Giving Bug		
	Blackhole		
	Unauthorized Self-Destruct		
Basic Coding Bugs	Revert DoS		
Dasic Couling Dugs	Unchecked External Call		
	Gasless Send		
	Send Instead Of Transfer		
	Costly Loop		
	(Unsafe) Use Of Untrusted Libraries		
	(Unsafe) Use Of Predictable Variables		
	Transaction Ordering Dependence		
	Deprecated Uses		
Semantic Consistency Checks	Semantic Consistency Checks		
	Business Logics Review		
	Functionality Checks		
	Authentication Management		
	Access Control & Authorization		
	Oracle Security		
Advanced DeFi Scrutiny	Digital Asset Escrow		
ravancea Ber i Geraemi,	Kill-Switch Mechanism		
	Operation Trails & Event Generation		
	ERC20 Idiosyncrasies Handling		
	Frontend-Contract Integration		
	Deployment Consistency		
	Holistic Risk Management		
	Avoiding Use of Variadic Byte Array		
	Using Fixed Compiler Version		
Additional Recommendations	Making Visibility Level Explicit		
	Making Type Inference Explicit		
	Adhering To Function Declaration Strictly		
	Following Other Best Practices		

contract is considered safe regarding the check item. For any discovered issue, we might further deploy contracts on our private testnet and run tests to confirm the findings. If necessary, we would additionally build a PoC to demonstrate the possibility of exploitation. The concrete list of check items is shown in Table 1.3.

In particular, we perform the audit according to the following procedure:

- Basic Coding Bugs: We first statically analyze given smart contracts with our proprietary static code analyzer for known coding bugs, and then manually verify (reject or confirm) all the issues found by our tool.
- <u>Semantic Consistency Checks</u>: We then manually check the logic of implemented smart contracts and compare with the description in the white paper.
- Advanced DeFi Scrutiny: We further review business logics, examine system operations, and place DeFi-related aspects under scrutiny to uncover possible pitfalls and/or bugs.
- Additional Recommendations: We also provide additional suggestions regarding the coding and development of smart contracts from the perspective of proven programming practices.

To better describe each issue we identified, we categorize the findings with Common Weakness Enumeration (CWE-699) [9], which is a community-developed list of software weakness types to better delineate and organize weaknesses around concepts frequently encountered in software development. Though some categories used in CWE-699 may not be relevant in smart contracts, we use the CWE categories in Table 1.4 to classify our findings. Moreover, in case there is an issue that may affect an active protocol that has been deployed, the public version of this report may omit such issue, but will be amended with full details right after the affected protocol is upgraded with respective fixes.

1.4 Disclaimer

Note that this security audit is not designed to replace functional tests required before any software release, and does not give any warranties on finding all possible security issues of the given smart contract(s) or blockchain software, i.e., the evaluation result does not guarantee the nonexistence of any further findings of security issues. As one audit-based assessment cannot be considered comprehensive, we always recommend proceeding with several independent audits and a public bug bounty program to ensure the security of smart contract(s). Last but not least, this security audit should not be used as investment advice.

Table 1.4: Common Weakness Enumeration (CWE) Classifications Used in This Audit

Category	Summary		
Configuration	Weaknesses in this category are typically introduced during		
	the configuration of the software.		
Data Processing Issues	Weaknesses in this category are typically found in functional-		
	ity that processes data.		
Numeric Errors	Weaknesses in this category are related to improper calcula-		
	tion or conversion of numbers.		
Security Features	Weaknesses in this category are concerned with topics like		
	authentication, access control, confidentiality, cryptography,		
	and privilege management. (Software security is not security		
	software.)		
Time and State	Weaknesses in this category are related to the improper man-		
	agement of time and state in an environment that supports		
	simultaneous or near-simultaneous computation by multiple		
	systems, processes, or threads.		
Error Conditions,	Weaknesses in this category include weaknesses that occur if		
Return Values,	a function does not generate the correct return/status code,		
Status Codes	or if the application does not handle all possible return/status		
	codes that could be generated by a function.		
Resource Management	Weaknesses in this category are related to improper manage-		
	ment of system resources.		
Behavioral Issues	Weaknesses in this category are related to unexpected behav-		
	iors from code that an application uses.		
Business Logics	Weaknesses in this category identify some of the underlying		
	problems that commonly allow attackers to manipulate the		
	business logic of an application. Errors in business logic can		
	be devastating to an entire application.		
Initialization and Cleanup	Weaknesses in this category occur in behaviors that are used		
	for initialization and breakdown.		
Arguments and Parameters	Weaknesses in this category are related to improper use of		
	arguments or parameters within function calls.		
Expression Issues	Weaknesses in this category are related to incorrectly written		
	expressions within code.		
Coding Practices	Weaknesses in this category are related to coding practices		
	that are deemed unsafe and increase the chances that an ex-		
	ploitable vulnerability will be present in the application. They		
	may not directly introduce a vulnerability, but indicate the		
	product has not been carefully developed or maintained.		

2 | Findings

2.1 Summary

Here is a summary of our findings after analyzing the design and implementation of the Carbon protocol. During the first phase of our audit, we study the smart contract source code and run our in-house static code analyzer through the codebase. The purpose here is to statically identify known coding bugs, and then manually verify (reject or confirm) issues reported by our tool. We further manually review business logics, examine system operations, and place DeFi-related aspects under scrutiny to uncover possible pitfalls and/or bugs.

Severity	# of Findings		
Critical	0		
High	0		
Medium	1		
Low	1		
Informational	2		
Total	4		

We have so far identified a list of potential issues: some of them involve subtle corner cases that might not be previously thought of, while others refer to unusual interactions among multiple contracts. For each uncovered issue, we have therefore developed test cases for reasoning, reproduction, and/or verification. After further analysis and internal discussion, we determined a few issues of varying severities need to be brought up and paid more attention to, which are categorized in the above table. More information can be found in the next subsection, and the detailed discussions of each of them are in Section 3.

2.2 Key Findings

Overall, these smart contracts are well-designed and engineered, though the implementation can be improved by resolving the identified issues (shown in Table 2.1), including 1 medium-severity vulnerability, 1 low-severity vulnerability, and 2 informational recommendations.

Table 2.1: Key Audit Findings

ID	Severity	Title	Category	Status
PVE-001	Low	Improved Precision in Carbon-	Coding Practices	Resolved
		POL::expectedTradeInput()		
PVE-002	Informational	Suggested Adherence of Checks-Effects-	Coding Practices	Resolved
		Interactions		
PVE-003	Informational	Revisited _trade() Logic in Strategies	Business Logic	Resolved
PVE-004	Medium	Trust on Admin Keys	Security Features	Mitigated

Beside the identified issues, we note that the staking support assumes the staked tokens are not deflationary. Also, we emphasize that for any user-facing applications and services, it is always important to develop necessary risk-control mechanisms and make contingency plans, which may need to be exercised before the mainnet deployment. The risk-control mechanisms should kick in at the very moment when the contracts are being deployed on mainnet. Please refer to Section 3 for details.

3 Detailed Results

3.1 Improved Precision in CarbonPOL::expectedTradeInput()

• ID: PVE-001

Severity: LowLikelihood: Low

• Impact: Low

• Target: CarbonPOL

Category: Numeric Errors [8]CWE subcategory: CWE-190 [2]

Description

SafeMath is a widely-used Solidity math library that is designed to support safe math operations by preventing common overflow or underflow issues when working with uint256 operands. While it indeed blocks common overflow or underflow issues, the lack of float support in Solidity may introduce another subtle, but troublesome issue: precision loss. In this section, we examine one possible precision loss source that stems from the the preferred handling when calculating the expected trade input amount.

In particular, we show below the implementation of the CarbonPOL::expectedTradeInput() routine. It has a rather straightforward logic in calculating the trade input based on the current price. However, the resulting amount is computed via the MathEx.mulDivF() helper (line 271), which is in favor of the trading user. We suggest the calculation should be computed in favor of the protocol with MathEx.mulDivC(). Though the resulting precision loss may be just a small number, it might play a critical role when certain boundary conditions are met. And it is always the preferred choice if we can avoid the precision loss as much as possible.

```
function expectedTradeInput(Token token, uint128 targetAmount) public view
validToken(token) returns (uint128) {

// revert if not enough amount available for trade

if (targetAmount > _amountAvailableForTrading(token)) {

revert InsufficientAmountForTrading();

}

Price memory currentPrice = tokenPrice(token);

// revert if current price is not valid
```

```
_validPrice(currentPrice);

// calculate the trade input based on the current price

return MathEx.mulDivF(currentPrice.sourceAmount, targetAmount, currentPrice.

targetAmount).toUint128();

272
```

Listing 3.1: CarbonPOL::expectedTradeInput()

Recommendation Revise the above calculations in favor of the protocol when facing a possible precision loss.

Status The issue has been resolved as the team plans to completely replace the CarbonPOL contract with CarbonVortex, which solves the issue in the following PR: 146.

3.2 Suggested Adherence Of Checks-Effects-Interactions Pattern

• ID: PVE-002

• Severity: Informational

Likelihood: N/A

Impact: N/A

Target: CarbonPOL, CarbonVortex

• Category: Coding Practices [6]

• CWE subcategory: CWE-1041 [1]

Description

A common coding best practice in Solidity is the adherence of checks-effects-interactions principle. This principle is effective in mitigating a serious attack vector known as re-entrancy. Via this particular attack vector, a malicious contract can be reentering a vulnerable contract in a nested manner. Specifically, it first calls a function in the vulnerable contract, but before the first instance of the function call is finished, second call can be arranged to re-enter the vulnerable contract by invoking functions that should only be executed once. This attack was part of several most prominent hacks in Ethereum history, including the DAO [13] exploit, and the Uniswap/Lendf.Me hack [12].

We notice there is an occasion where the <code>checks-effects-interactions</code> principle is violated. Using the <code>CarbonPOL</code> as an example, the <code>_sellETHForBNT()</code> function (see the code snippet below) is provided to externally call <code>msg.sender</code> to transfer the <code>Ether</code>. However, the invocation of an external contract requires extra care in avoiding the above <code>re-entrancy</code>. Apparently, the interaction with the external contract (line 345) starts before effecting the update on internal states (lines 348 and 356 - 357), hence violating the principle. In this particular case, if the external contract has certain hidden logic that may be abused of launching <code>re-entrancy</code> via the same entry function. Fortunately, the use of <code>nonReentrant</code> effectively blocks this specific risk.

```
335
        function _sellETHForBNT(uint128 targetAmount) private returns (uint128) {
             uint128 sourceAmount = expectedTradeInput(NATIVE_TOKEN, targetAmount);
336
337
             // revert if trade requires 0 bnt
338
            if (sourceAmount == 0) {
339
                 revert InvalidTrade();
340
            }
341
            // transfer the tokens from the user to the bnt address (burn them directly)
             _bnt.safeTransferFrom(msg.sender, Token.unwrap(_bnt), sourceAmount);
342
343
344
             // transfer the eth to the user
345
             payable(msg.sender).sendValue(targetAmount);
346
            // update the available eth sale amount
347
348
             _ethSaleAmount.current -= targetAmount;
349
350
             // check if remaining eth sale amount is below the min eth sale amount
351
             if (_ethSaleAmount.current < _minEthSaleAmount) {</pre>
352
                // top up the eth sale amount
353
                 _ethSaleAmount.current = Math.min(address(this).balance, _ethSaleAmount.
                     initial).toUint128();
354
                 // reset the price to double the current one
355
                 Price memory price = tokenPrice(NATIVE_TOKEN);
356
                 _initialPrice[NATIVE_TOKEN] = price;
357
                 _tradingStartTimes[NATIVE_TOKEN] = uint32(block.timestamp);
358
                 // emit price updated event
359
                 emit PriceUpdated({ token: NATIVE_TOKEN, price: price });
360
361
362
            return sourceAmount;
363
```

Listing 3.2: CarbonPOL::_sellETHForBNT()

Recommendation Revisit the above routine to follow the best practice of the checks-effects -interactions pattern. In the meantime, we acknowledge that the use of nonReentrant effectively blocks this specific risk.

Status The issue has been resolved with the use of CarbonVortex to replace the above CarbonPOL.

3.3 Revisited trade() Logic in Strategies

• ID: PVE-003

• Severity: Informational

Likelihood: N/A

Impact: N/A

• Target: Strategies

• Category: Business Logic [7]

• CWE subcategory: CWE-841 [4]

Description

The Carbon protocol provides an off-chain matching algorithm whereby a trade of a given number of tokens is spread over one or more orders to achieve the most favorable rate of exchange for the trader. The trade is fulfilled by performing a single trade action in each of the matched orders. While examining the actual trade logic, we notice a possible improvement to validate the token for swap is properly transferred in.

To elaborate, we show below the code snippet of the _trade() routine, which is used to fulfill the trade. It loops all the given trade actions, finds the target order in each trade action and calculates the source and target amounts for the single trade action. The source and target amounts of each single trade action is calculated and then added together to know exact token amount for transfer in/out. We notice the final token amount to transfer in is achieved by calling the _validateDepositAndRefundExcessNativeToken() routine (line 501). When calling this routine, we suggest to set validateDepositAmount as true to ensure the funds are properly transferred in.

```
469
        function _trade(TradeAction[] calldata tradeActions, TradeParams memory params)
            internal {
470
            bool isTargetToken0 = params.tokens.target == params.pair.tokens[0];
471
472
             // process trade actions
473
             for (uint256 i = 0; i < tradeActions.length; i = uncheckedInc(i)) {...}</pre>
474
475
             // apply trading fee
476
             uint128 tradingFeeAmount;
477
             if (params.byTargetAmount) {
478
                 uint128 amountIncludingFee = _addFee(params.sourceAmount, params.pair.id);
479
                 tradingFeeAmount = amountIncludingFee - params.sourceAmount;
480
                 params.sourceAmount = amountIncludingFee;
481
                 if (params.sourceAmount > params.constraint) {
482
                     revert GreaterThanMaxInput();
483
                 }
484
                 _accumulatedFees[params.tokens.source] += tradingFeeAmount;
485
             } else {
486
                 uint128 amountExcludingFee = _subtractFee(params.targetAmount, params.pair.
487
                 tradingFeeAmount = params.targetAmount - amountExcludingFee;
488
                 params.targetAmount = amountExcludingFee;
```

```
489
                  if (params.targetAmount < params.constraint) {</pre>
490
                      revert LowerThanMinReturn();
491
492
                  _accumulatedFees[params.tokens.target] += tradingFeeAmount;
493
             }
494
495
             // transfer funds
496
             _validateDepositAndRefundExcessNativeToken(
497
                  params.tokens.source,
498
                 params.trader,
499
                 params.sourceAmount,
500
                 params.txValue,
501
                 false
502
             );
503
             _withdrawFunds(params.tokens.target, payable(params.trader), params.targetAmount
                 );
504
505
             // tokens traded successfully, emit event
506
             emit TokensTraded({
507
                 trader: params.trader,
508
                 sourceToken: params.tokens.source,
509
                 targetToken: params.tokens.target,
510
                 sourceAmount: params.sourceAmount,
511
                 targetAmount: params.targetAmount,
512
                 {\tt tradingFeeAmount:}\ {\tt tradingFeeAmount,}
513
                  byTargetAmount: params.byTargetAmount
514
             });
515
```

Listing 3.3: Strategies::_trade()

Moreover, if we examine all possible calls to validateDepositAndRefundExcessNativeToken(), all invocations are made with the last parameter as true. With that, we can further simplify the logic to avoid this parameter.

Recommendation Add a proper validation for the given trade actions to ensure the funds are properly transferred in.

Status This issue has been resolved as it is part of the design.

3.4 Trust Issue of Admin Keys

• ID: PVE-004

Severity: MediumLikelihood: Medium

• Impact: Medium

• Target: Multiple Contracts

• Category: Security Features [5]

• CWE subcategory: CWE-287 [3]

Description

In the Carbon protocol, there is a special admin account (with the ROLE_ADMIN). This admin account plays a critical role in governing and regulating the protocol-wide operations (e.g., assign roles, configure parameters, withdraw funds, and upgrade the proxy). Our analysis shows that the admin account and other privileged roles need to be scrutinized. In the following, we examine these privileged accounts and their related privileged accesses in current contracts.

```
131
        function setTradingFeePPM(uint32 newTradingFeePPM) external onlyAdmin validFee(
            newTradingFeePPM) {
132
             _setTradingFeePPM(newTradingFeePPM);
133
134
135
        function setPairTradingFeePPM(
136
            Token token0,
137
            Token token1,
138
            uint32 newPairTradingFeePPM
139
        ) external onlyAdmin validFee(newPairTradingFeePPM) {
140
            Pair memory _pair = _pair(token0, token1);
141
             _setPairTradingFeePPM(_pair, newPairTradingFeePPM);
142
```

Listing 3.4: Example Privileged Operations in CarbonController

```
181
        function setRewardsPPM(uint32 newRewardsPPM) external onlyAdmin validFee(
            newRewardsPPM) {
182
             _setRewardsPPM(newRewardsPPM);
183
        }
184
185
        function setPriceResetMultiplier(
186
            uint32 newPriceResetMultiplier
187
        ) external onlyAdmin greaterThanZero(newPriceResetMultiplier) {
188
             _setPriceResetMultiplier(newPriceResetMultiplier);
        }
189
190
191
        function setMinTokenSaleAmountMultiplier(
192
            uint32 newMinTokenSaleAmountMultiplier
193
        ) external onlyAdmin greaterThanZero(newMinTokenSaleAmountMultiplier) {
194
             _setMinTokenSaleAmountMultiplier(newMinTokenSaleAmountMultiplier);
195
```

```
196
197
         function setPriceDecayHalfLife(
198
             uint32 newPriceDecayHalfLife
199
         ) external onlyAdmin greaterThanZero(newPriceDecayHalfLife) {
200
             _setPriceDecayHalfLife(newPriceDecayHalfLife);
201
202
203
         function setTargetTokenPriceDecayHalfLife(
204
             uint32 newPriceDecayHalfLife
205
         ) external onlyAdmin greaterThanZero(newPriceDecayHalfLife) {
206
             _setTargetTokenPriceDecayHalfLife(newPriceDecayHalfLife);
207
        }
208
209
        function setTargetTokenPriceDecayHalfLifeOnReset(
210
             uint32 newPriceDecayHalfLife
211
        ) external onlyAdmin greaterThanZero(newPriceDecayHalfLife) {
212
             _setTargetTokenPriceDecayHalfLifeOnReset(newPriceDecayHalfLife);
213
        }
214
215
         function setMaxTargetTokenSaleAmount(
216
             uint128 newMaxTargetTokenSaleAmount
217
         ) external onlyAdmin greaterThanZero(newMaxTargetTokenSaleAmount) {
218
             _setMaxTargetTokenSaleAmount(newMaxTargetTokenSaleAmount);
219
        }
220
221
         function setMinTargetTokenSaleAmount(
222
             uint128 newMinTargetTokenSaleAmount
223
        ) external onlyAdmin greaterThanZero(newMinTargetTokenSaleAmount) {
224
             _setMinTokenSaleAmount(_targetToken, newMinTargetTokenSaleAmount);
225
        }
226
227
         function disablePair(Token token, bool disabled) external onlyAdmin {
228
             _setPairDisabled(token, disabled);
229
230
231
        function withdrawFunds(
232
             Token[] calldata tokens,
233
             address payable target,
234
             uint256[] calldata amounts
235
         ) external validAddress(target) validateTokens(tokens) nonReentrant onlyAdmin {
236
             uint256 len = tokens.length;
237
             if (len != amounts.length) {
238
                 revert InvalidAmountLength();
239
240
             for (uint256 i = 0; i < len; i = uncheckedInc(i)) {</pre>
241
                 // safe due to nonReentrant modifier (forwards all available gas in case of
242
                 tokens[i].unsafeTransfer(target, amounts[i]);
243
             }
245
             emit FundsWithdrawn({ tokens: tokens, caller: msg.sender, target: target,
                 amounts: amounts });
```

246

Listing 3.5: Example Privileged Operations in CarbonVortex

We understand the need of the privileged functions for proper contract operations, but at the same time the extra power to these privileged accounts may also be a counter-party risk to the contract users. Therefore, we list this concern as an issue here from the audit perspective and highly recommend making these privileges explicit or raising necessary awareness among protocol users.

Recommendation Promptly transfer the privileged accounts to the intended DAD-like governance contract. All changes to privileged operations may need to be mediated with necessary timelocks. Eventually, activate the normal on-chain community-based governance life-cycle and ensure the intended trustless nature and high-quality distributed governance.

Status The issue has been mitigated as the team confirms they will use a multi-sig account as the admin.



4 Conclusion

In this audit, we have analyzed the design and implementation of the Carbon protocol, which is a next-generation AMM protocol introducing the key new feature of asymmetric liquidity, wherein any given bonding curve only trades in a single direction, effectively being an out-of the-money limit order. The current code base is clearly organized and those identified issues are promptly confirmed and fixed.

Meanwhile, we need to emphasize that smart contracts as a whole are still in an early, but exciting stage of development. To improve this report, we greatly appreciate any constructive feedbacks or suggestions, on our methodology, audit findings, or potential gaps in scope/coverage.



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